

**Town of Chester
Wason Pond Commission Meeting
Monday, January 9th, 2017
PACT Studio Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I. Call to Order – Open Meeting

As Acting Chairman, Mr. Myette called this meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission to order at 6:35pm.

Members Present:

Chris Hadik, Member at Large
Stephen O. Landau, Selectman Liaison
Chuck Myette, Acting Chair; Treasurer / Conservation Commission
Darrell Quinn, Alternate
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Commission
Herb Rowell, Alternate / Chester Seniors

Members Absent:

Patrick Connelly
Tom Edwards, Member at Large
Kevin Kistler, Recreation Commission

II. Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Myette noted that a balance of nine hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$954.00) remained.

Mr. Quinn made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Kistler absent; so moved.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 5th, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Quinn made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor with Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Kistler absent; so moved.

IV. Recreation Commission

Discussion of future use / plans for Wason Pond is on tonight’s Recreation Commission meeting agenda; Ms. Reishus will share this information at next month’s meeting. Plans to repair the back side of the bathhouse and to create one big room have been placed in the 2017/18 building maintenance budget proposal by Mr. Amato. Ms. Reishus met recently with Summer Camp Directors Savana Melanson and Katie Theriault; all is moving along nicely.

Removal of some non-working commercial refrigerators in the old store was discussed. Currently these are being used for storage; Mr. Healey will be asked to determine whether the Transfer Station will accept them for proper disposal and recycling. Either way, it was agreed that these be removed and proper means of storage be put in their place.

It was discussed whether baseball / softball fields were only conceptual or had been included in the master plan for Wason Pond. Members of Chester Baseball and Softball are due to attend tonight's Recreation Commission meeting; Ms. Reishus will advise them attend next month's Wason Pond Commission meeting to engage in further discussion. Mr. Quinn wondered whether placement of ball fields was "to be determined" as per a three-phase plan proposed by Bill Gregsak. Ms. Reishus was under the impression that it was always the intent to raise money for such fields; and it was Mr. Hadik's understanding that placement of the fields was part of the master plan as sold to the Town. Mr. Myette noted that the term "low-impact" had also been part of the plan for the fields and must be defined. Mr. Landau wondered how others felt about having a plain open field; and reminded that maintenance would be a serious consideration.

Ms. Reishus departed the meeting at 7:04pm.

V. Fitness Course

There had been recent talk of placing a fitness course at Wason Pond and it was agreed that there were many other portions of land in Town that could be used. Other fitness courses in Town placed in years past were observed as becoming neglected after a while. Spring Hill Farm includes a five-acre parcel that Miss Church thought would be suitable for low-impact sports. Mr. Myette reminded of the existence of the Strategic Land Protection Committee and suggested looking into creating a program for developing a low-impact course somewhere else in Town.

VI. Conservation Commission

The undertaking of mapping trails in Town (i.e. old wood roads, areas of interest such as waterfalls at Wason Pond, old cellar holes, etc.) has been discussed recently with new Conservation Commission member, Aaron Hume. Conservation Commission's Deb Munson recently attended a conference on Trail Mapping; her feedback regarding plans to create a statewide trail map will be invited for next meeting. Although being part of a statewide program may prove useful in mapping the Town's trails, Mr. Quinn wondered if such maps would eventually attract unwanted attention to Town; Mr. Hadik speculated whether ATV use would become an issue.

VII. Miscellaneous

- No new information was discussed regarding any pending Eagle Scout projects. However, it was felt that some prior Scout projects could afford to be revisited, or perhaps revised / reversed as new Eagle Scout project(s). Future projects in general should be very carefully considered, and ideally at locations other than Wason Pond.
- As discussed at the meeting of November 7th, 2016, Mr. Myette sent a request to consider a repair plan for the barn roof to the Board of Selectmen.
- It was agreed that the Management Plan for Wason Pond is so extensive that it would be best addressed bit by bit to keep from becoming overwhelming.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission will take place Monday, February 6th, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Municipal Complex.

Town of Chester – Wason Pond Commission Meeting – January 9th, 2017

Mr. Hadik made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Rowell seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with Ms. Reishus and Messrs. Connelly, Edwards, and Kistler absent; so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson
Recording Secretary